

Message Text

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R 280654Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4723

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BFOL, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS

REF: STATE 062550, HK 3036 (FY 75 CCP PROGRAM REPORT, ANNEX D).

1. MONORAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM: PROPOSED 7-1/2 MILES ROUTE RUNS FROM TSIMSHATSUI TO KWUN TONG. FIRST STATE OF PROJECT COULD BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS AT COST OF ABOUT US\$40 MILLION. OVERHEAD SYSTEM WOULD BE CUSTOM-BUILT BY ROHR INDUSTRIES, KNOWN AS ROMAG, WITH A SPEED OF 30 TO 40 MPH. FINAL DECISION NOT YET MADE BUT IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT HKG WILL GIVE ITS APPROVAL AND ROHR, A US FIRM, WILL RECEIVE CONTRACT.

2. RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED RAIL EXTENSION FROM SHATIN TO KWAI CHUNG TERMINAL NOT EXPECTED TO START IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE AS CHINA'S INTEREST IN CONTAINERIZATION HAS WANED. MR. REGINALD GREGORY, GENERAL MANAGER OF KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THREE-DAY VISIT TO CANTON, SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH VICE DIRECTOR OF KWANCHOW RAILWAY BUREAU, MR. CHIU CHIEN-CHANG AND DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT, MR. CHANG HUNG-HSI, ON ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES FROM HK ACROSS CHINA, MONGOLIA AND SIBERIA. ALTHOUGH SOME CHINESE INTEREST WAS SHOWN CONCERNING LONG RANGE PLANS FOR RAIL LINK-UP WITH MONGOLIA AND SIBERIA, ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY TO CANTON GENERATED NO RESPONSE.

3. HIGHWAYS AND ROADS: AMONG ROADS AND HIGHWAYS, ROADWAY TO LANTAO ISLAND RECEIVED MOST ATTENTION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT DETAILED PLANS FOR PROJECT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN FY 76. WE SUBMITTED UNCLASSIFIED

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A TOTAL OF 162 PRIVATE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR 1974, BUT

NONE ARE CONNECTED WITH MAJOR PROJECTS, NAMED IN ANNEX D, BECAUSE
PROJECTS HAVE NOT REACHED CONTRACTING STAGE.
CROSS

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